

S.N. 10/617,579

Art Unit 3632

REMARKS:

Claims 1-18 are pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Schneider (U.S. Patent No. 5,009,442). Of these, claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent.

Schneider teaches the joining of an IV stand with a wheelchair to effect safer transportation of patients attached to IV equipment. This joining is accomplished with a "means" (clamp 24 of Fig. 2) such that an IV pole is connected to a wheelchair via a telescoping arm. In order to keep the IV stand as stable as possible, the clamp 24 must be affixed to the pole of the stand at a height near the top of the wheelchair front.

In contrast, the present invention is concerned with adding a weight member at the bottom of an IV stand in order to improve stability by lowering the chair's center of gravity. Thus, to further clarify this difference from the clamp of Schneider, all independent claims (1, 7 and 13) have been amended to recite the limitation "a pair of bodies disposed in resting engagement atop the wheeled carriage of the stand...." This limitation makes clear the fact that the weight members of the invention must engage the top of the wheel carriage of the stand. If it were otherwise, the center of gravity would actually be raised, thereby defeating the purpose of the invention.

Schneider does not disclose or suggest disposing his clamp in resting engagement atop the wheel carriage of the IV stand. Indeed, to attempt to do so would impair or eliminate

S.N. 10/617,579

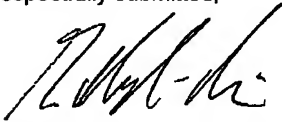
Art Unit 3632

the vertical stability and longitudinal movement (to account for uneven flooring) advantages of Schneider's invention. Thus, all independent claims are believed to have been distinguished from the cited art. Moreover, because all independent claims have been amended to recite a distinguishing limitation, all claims depending therefrom also are believed to have been so distinguished.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-18 be reconsidered.

Except for the fee authorization provided for a petition for a two month extension of time, no fee is believed to be due with this response. Should there be any unforeseen costs, please charge our Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



Quarles & Brady Streich Lang LLP

Gavin J. Milczarek-Desai
Reg. No. 45,801
(520) 770-8718 phone
(520) 770-2235 fax